

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 21, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

## Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 129

**Introduced by Assembly Member Brown**

**(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Lowenthal)**

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Buchanan, Eggman, Beth Gaines, Grove, Melendez, Quirk-Silva, Salas, Skinner, Waldron, Weber, and Yamada Yamada, Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Bigelow, Bloom, Bocanegra, Bonilla, Bonta, Bradford, Ian Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chávez, Chesbro, Conway, Cooley, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dickinson, Donnelly, Fong, Fox, Frazier, Garcia, Gatto, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gorell, Gray, Hagman, Hall, Harkey, Roger Hernández, Holden, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Levine, Linder, Logue, Maienschein, Mansoor, Medina, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, Nestande, Olsen, Pan, Patterson, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Quirk, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Stone, Ting, Wagner, Wieckowski, Wilk, and Williams)**  
**(Coauthors: Senators Hill, Lieu, Pavley, and Vidak)**

April 1, 2014

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 129—Relative to sexual assault.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 129, as amended, Brown. Sexual Assault Awareness Month: Denim Day California.

This measure would designate the month of April 2014 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and would recognize April 23, 2014, as Denim Day California.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In 2012, California rape crisis centers provided  
2 direct crisis intervention services to 29,208 individuals, provided  
3 6,283 sexual assault forensic examinations, and provided  
4 community education services for almost 129,000 people; and

5 WHEREAS, Women, children, and men are all victims of sexual  
6 assault, and it is estimated that nearly one in two women and one  
7 in five men experience sexual violence other than rape throughout  
8 their lifetime; and

9 WHEREAS, The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence  
10 Survey reports that there are over 22 million survivors of rape  
11 throughout the United States and two million of those survivors  
12 of rape are currently living in the State of California; and

13 WHEREAS, Rape and sexual assault impact women, children,  
14 and men of all racial, cultural, and economic backgrounds; and

15 WHEREAS, Women, children, and men suffer multiple types  
16 of sexual violence, including acquaintance rape, stranger rape,  
17 sexual assault by an intimate partner, gang rape, incest, serial rape,  
18 ritual abuse, sexual harassment, child sexual molestation,  
19 prostitution, pornography, and stalking; and

20 WHEREAS, In addition to the immediate physical and emotional  
21 costs, sexual assault may also have severe and long-lasting  
22 consequences of post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse,  
23 major depression, homelessness, eating disorders, and suicide; and

24 WHEREAS, The federal Centers for Disease Control and  
25 Prevention have identified sexual assault as a significant, costly,  
26 and preventable health issue; and

27 WHEREAS, A coalition of rape crisis centers and their allies,  
28 known as the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault, has  
29 emerged to directly confront this crisis with the cooperation of law  
30 enforcement agencies, churches, health care providers, and other  
31 helping professionals from California's diverse communities; and

32 WHEREAS, It is our responsibility to support all rape survivors  
33 by treating them with dignity, compassion, and respect; and

34 WHEREAS, It is important to recognize the compassion and  
35 dedication of the individuals involved in this effort, applaud their  
36 commitment, and increase public understanding of this significant  
37 problem; and

38 WHEREAS, It is important to recognize the strength, courage,  
39 and challenges of the victims and survivors of sexual assault and

1 their families and friends as they struggle to cope with the reality  
2 of sexual assault; and

3 WHEREAS, It is important to recognize that not all victims of  
4 sexual assault survive, either at the time of the assault or later, due  
5 to the horrific long-term trauma that sexual assault often inflicts  
6 upon victims; and

7 WHEREAS, There are rape prevention and education efforts  
8 underway throughout California to challenge the societal myths  
9 and behaviors that perpetuate rape and to engage communities in  
10 a common goal of ending sexual assault; and

11 WHEREAS, It is crucially important to hold perpetrators  
12 responsible for sexual attacks, and to prevent sexual violence at  
13 every opportunity; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1998, the Italian Supreme Court overturned the  
15 conviction of a man who sexually assaulted an 18-year-old woman  
16 after the court determined that, “because the victim wore very,  
17 very tight jeans, she had to help him remove them, and by removing  
18 the jeans it was no longer rape but consensual sex”; and

19 WHEREAS, Enraged by the court decision, within a matter of  
20 hours, the women in the Italian Parliament launched into immediate  
21 action and protested by wearing jeans to work; and

22 WHEREAS, Nations and states throughout the world have  
23 followed the lead of the Italian Parliament by designating their  
24 own “Denim Day” to raise public awareness about rape and sexual  
25 assault; and

26 WHEREAS, Harmful attitudes about rape and sexual assault  
27 allow these crimes to persist and allow survivors to be revictimized  
28 through victim-blaming attitudes and unresponsive government  
29 systems; and

30 WHEREAS, California is a national leader within the judicial,  
31 criminal justice, medical, rape crisis, and health communities in  
32 promoting victim-centered approaches to victims of crime; now,  
33 therefore, be it

34 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
35 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature designates the month of  
36 April 2014 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month; and be it further

37 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes April 23, 2014, as  
38 Denim Day California and encourages everyone to wear jeans on  
39 that day to help communicate the message that there is no excuse  
40 for, and never an invitation to commit, rape; and be it further

- 1     *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 2     of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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